



#9 Reg for Recs. (N. 9)
Smb 12-4-02

Piccirilli 1-75

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Patent Application

Applicant(s): A.B. Piccirilli et al.
Case: 1-75
Serial No.: 09/262,530
Filing Date: March 4, 1999
Group: 2633
Examiner: Agustin Bello

I hereby certify that this paper is being deposited on this date with the U.S. Postal Service as first class mail addressed to the Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231.

Signature: Laura M. Hamlin Date: November 22, 2002

Title: System and Method for Secure Multiple Wavelength
Communication on Optical Fibers

RESPONSE TO FINAL REJECTION

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

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DEC 03 2002

Technology Center 2800

Sir:

This is submitted in response to the outstanding final Office Action dated August 22, 2002, in the above-identified application. A Notice of Appeal is submitted concurrently herewith.

REMARKS

The present application was filed on March 4, 1999 with claims 1-32. Claims 1, 15, 22 and 28 are the independent claims. In the outstanding final Office Action dated August 22, 2002, the Examiner rejected each of claims 1-32 as being either anticipated under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) or unpatentable under 35 U.S.C. §103(a). The primary reference in each of the art rejections is U.S. Patent No. 5,710,650 (hereinafter "Dugan").

In this response, Applicants traverse the §102(b) and §103(a) rejections. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present application in view of the following remarks.

Independent claims 1, 15 and 28 stand rejected under §102(b) as being anticipated by Dugan. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.